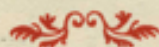


THE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA



INAUGURAL
SERVICE



T O R O N T O

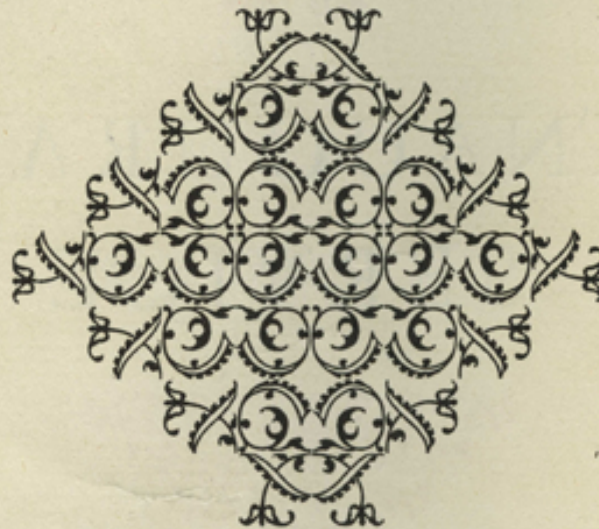
WEDNESDAY JUNE TENTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIVE

Revisited and Remixed June 8, 2025
@ The UNITED COMMONS

Welcome to our celebration of the 100 years of the United Church of Canada!

A note about language: We have chosen to preserve the original language of the 1925 liturgy, including in the hymnody. Since that time, there is greater awareness to use inclusive language around both humanity and God. We welcome you to adapt the language as you see fit!

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Lək'wəŋən peoples', the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations. We strive to journey toward reparation, right relationship and reconciliation with justice. We confess the complicity of our religious traditions and institutions in the loss of life, lands, languages, spiritualities and cultures of the First Peoples' of these lands. We confess that here on Vancouver Island we, as The United Church of Canada ran the Alberni Indian Residential School which was a part of the United Church role in the Canada's project of genocide. We are grateful for the ongoing wisdom, stewardship and tending of these lands and apprentice ourselves to this good work of caring for creation and seeking to live in right-relationship with each other.



The United Church of Canada was inaugurated on June 10, 1925 at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto (also home of the Maple Leafs at that time!), when the Methodist Church, Canada, the Congregational Union of Canada, and 70 percent of The Presbyterian Church in Canada entered into a union. Also joining was the small General Council of Union Churches, centred largely in Western Canada. It was the first union of churches in the world to cross historical denominational lines and received international acclaim. Each of the founding churches had a long history in Canada prior to 1925. The movement for church union began with the desire to coordinate ministry in the vast Canadian northwest and for collaboration in overseas missions. Congregations in Indigenous communities from each of the original denominations were an important factor in the effort toward church union.

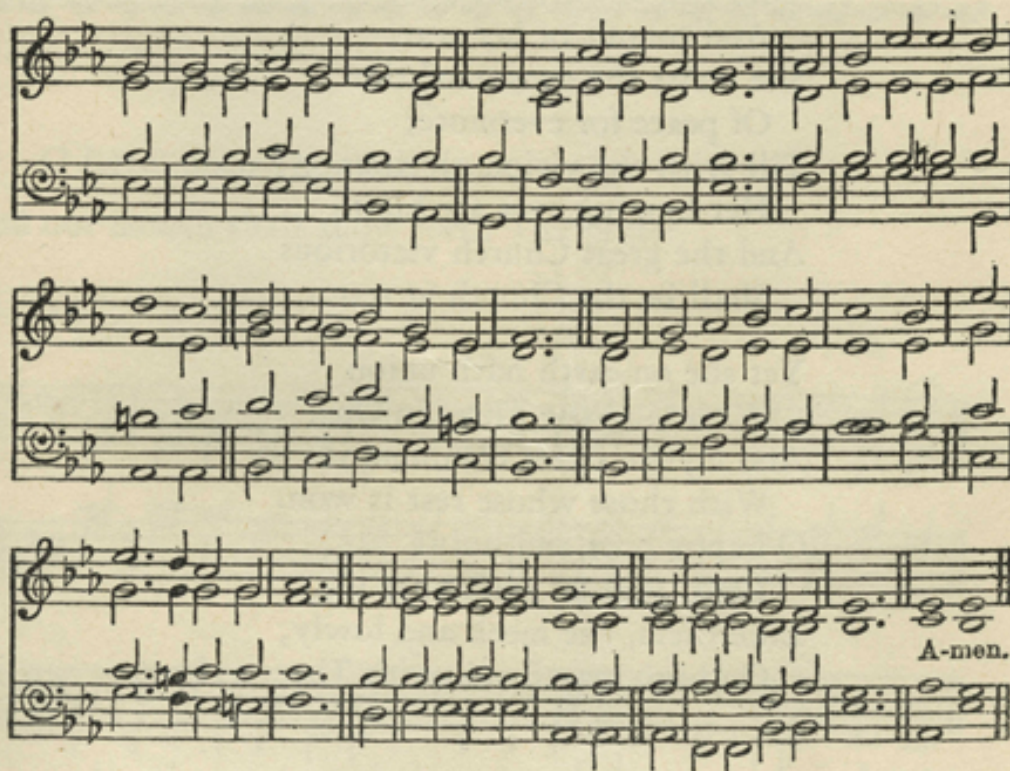
The United Church continues to be a "uniting" church, and has been enriched by several additional unions since 1925. In 1930, the Synod of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda became part of The United Church of Canada's Maritime Conference. The Evangelical United Brethren Church became part of The United Church of Canada in 1968. In addition, various individual congregations from other Christian communions have become part of the United Church over the years. The United Church is now in full communion with The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ in the USA.

The United Church ordained its first woman minister, The Rev. Lydia Emelie Gruchy in 1935 and removed the bar for membership and leadership for 2SLGBTQIA+ folk in 37 years ago - in 1988 at a National Meeting held here in Victoria. Et Omnes Unum Sint - that all may be one (John 17: 21)



THREE streams of Delegates of the three uniting Churches, meeting at the entrance to the place of worship, mingle in a procession to their appointed seats, singing with the congregation assembled the

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



TUNE—Aurelia.

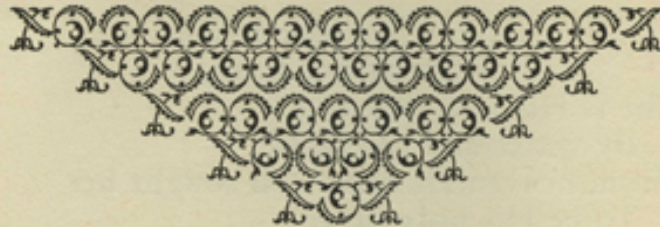
THE Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth,
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee. *Amen.*

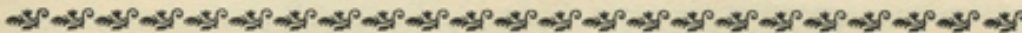
S. J. Stone.





THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Service proceeds without announcement, "Amen" to be said by all.

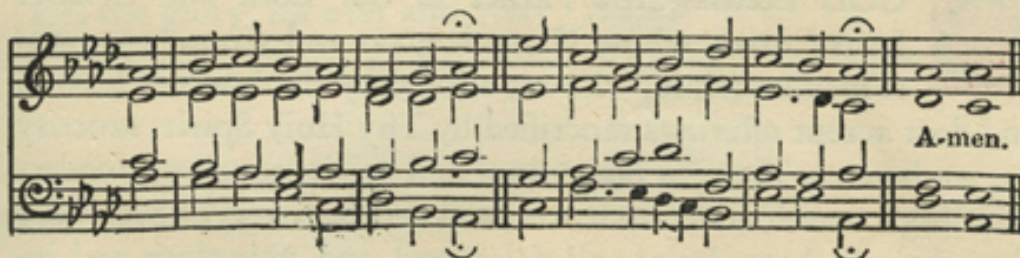
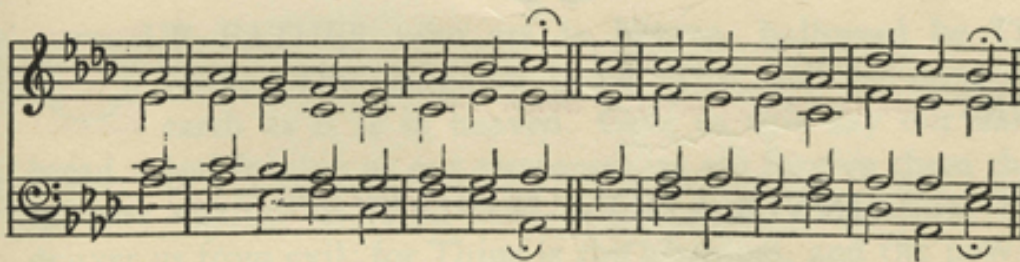


I

Minister: O Lord, open Thou our lips,

All: And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

PSALM 100.



TUNE—Old Hundredth.

ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure. *Amen.*

William Kethe, in Scottish Psalter, 1650.

(acapella) Praise God from whom all blessings flow

❧ Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heav'nly host

The Source, The Wo-rd, The Ho-ly Ghost. Aaaa-men!

PRAYERS (all reverently bowing down):—

INVOCATION (by Minister appointed)



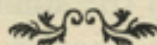
GOD Eternal, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose Name is great and whose goodness is inexhaustible, who art adored by the hosts of heaven and dost accept offerings sanctified by Thy Holy Spirit: sanctify us, we beseech Thee, in body, soul and spirit; touch our understandings, search our consciences, and cast out every unbecoming thought and base desire, all falsehood and vainglory and indifference, every motion of the flesh and spirit not in accordance with Thy holy will. And grant us, O Lord, with freedom, with a pure heart and contrite soul, without confusion of face, and with sanctified lips, boldly to call on Thee, our holy God and Father in heaven. *Amen.*

GENERAL CONFESSION *(by all in concert)*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father: we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore Thou them that are penitent: according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life; to the glory of Thy holy Name. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



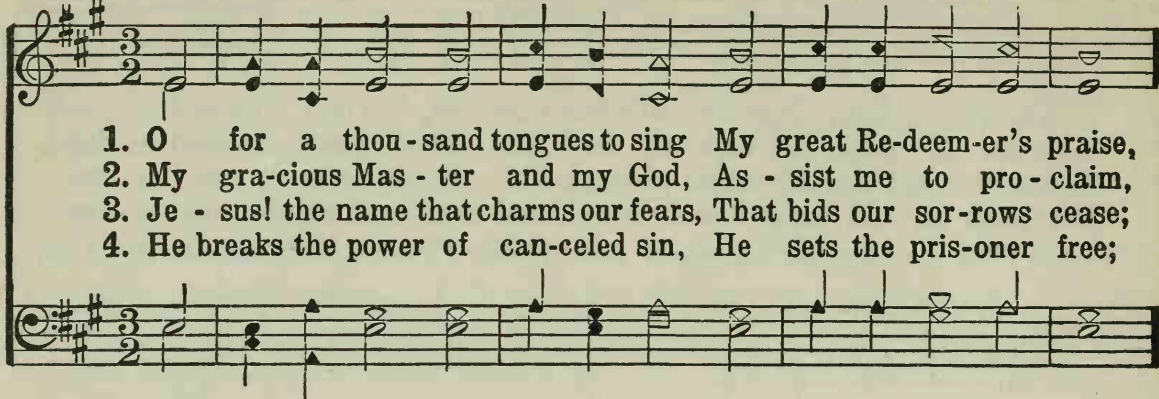
5

O For a Thousand Tongues

CHARLES WESLEY

AZMON

CARL G. GLASER
Att. by LOWELL MASON



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise,
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim,
3. Je-sus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor-rows cease;
4. He breaks the power of can-celed sin, He sets the pris-oner free;



The glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of His grace.
To spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of Thy name.
'Tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; His blood a-vailed for me.

6

Holy, Holy, Holy

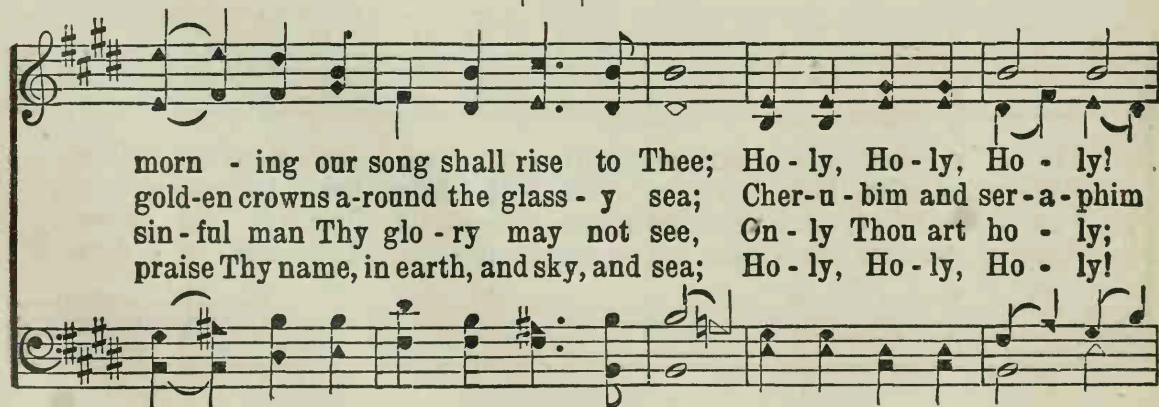
REGINALD HEBER

NICEA

Rev. JOHN B. DYKES



1. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Lord God Al-might-y! Ear-ly in the
2. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly! All the saints a-dore Thee, Cast-ing down their
3. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly! Tho' the dark-ness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of
4. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Lord God Al-might-y! All Thy works shall



morn-ing our song shall rise to Thee; Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly!
gold-en crowns a-round the glass-y sea; Cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim
sin-ful man Thy glo-ry may not see, On-ly Thou art ho-ly;
praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly!

CONCERTED RECITAL OF PSALM 118. 1-4, 19-26

(All standing):—

O GIVE THANKS unto the Lord; for He is good: *
Because His mercy endureth for ever.

Let Israel now say,*
That His mercy endureth for ever.

Let the house of Aaron now say,*
That His mercy endureth for ever.

Let them that fear the Lord now say, *
That His mercy endureth for ever.

Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, *
And I will praise the Lord:

This gate of the Lord,* into which the righteous shall enter.

I will praise Thee: for Thou hast heard me,* and art become my
salvation.

The stone which the builders refused* is become the head stone
of the corner.

This is the Lord's doing;* it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day which the Lord hath made;* we will rejoice and
be glad in it.

Save now, I beseech Thee, O Lord; O Lord,* I beseech Thee, send
now prosperity.

Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord,* we have
blessed you out of the house of the Lord.

414 The Te Duem: Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Capo 3: D
F

A
C

D
F



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

A/C#
C/E

D
F

A
C

D
F

A
C

D
F



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;

A/C#
C/E

D
F

A
C

A⁷/C#
C⁷/E



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,

D
F

A
C

G
B \flat

D/F#
F/A

A⁷
C⁷

D
F



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

LESSON FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

—ST. JOHN xvii. 1, 2, 6, 17-23.

THESE words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee:

As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him . . .

I have manifested Thy Name unto the men which Thou gavest me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them me; and they have kept Thy word.

Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.

As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me.

And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God!

GENERAL INTERCESSION



GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men: that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for the good estate of the Catholic Church; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body or estate; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ His sake. *Amen.*

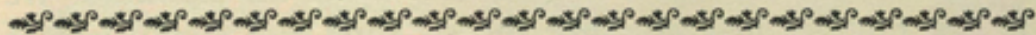




II

THE HALLOWING OF CHURCH UNION

(All reverently standing)



Minister officiating:

TO the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His
grace;

And of His Son Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself
for us;

And of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us:

All: This Church of Christ is consecrate.

Minister:

For the worship of God in praise and prayer;

For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;

For the administration of the Holy Sacraments:

All: This Church of Christ is consecrate.

Minister:

For the edifying of the body of Christ;
For the evangelizing of the world;
For the promotion of righteousness and goodwill:

All: This Church of Christ is consecrate.

Minister:

In the unity of the faith;
In the bonds of Christian brotherhood;
And in charity to all:

All: This Church of Christ is consecrate.

Minister:

Having part among the brethren in the inheritance of Apostles
and Prophets,
Fathers and Teachers, Martyrs and Evangelists:

All: We give thanks unto the Father who hath made us meet to be
partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.



PRESBYTERIAN Moderator:

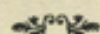
ACCORDING to the grace given unto our fathers, as witnesses
to the Apostolic Gospel and standardbearers of the Church
commissioned to make disciples of all nations, more especially
in the manifestation of the Spirit in vigilance for Christ's
Kirk and Covenant, in care for the spread of education and
devotion to sacred learning, receive ye our inheritance
among them that are sanctified.

All: We glory in the grace given unto us in this goodly heritage.

CONGREGATIONAL Union Chairman:

ACCORDING to the grace given unto our fathers, as witnesses to the Apostolic Gospel and standardbearers of the Church commissioned to make disciples of all nations, more especially in the manifestation of the Spirit in the liberty of prophesying, the love of spiritual freedom and the enforcement of civic justice, receive ye our inheritance among them that are sanctified.

All: We glory in the grace given unto us in this goodly heritage.



METHODIST General Superintendent:

ACCORDING to the grace given unto our fathers, as witnesses to the Apostolic Gospel and standardbearers of the Church commissioned to make disciples of all nations, more especially in the manifestation of the Spirit in evangelical zeal and human redemption, the testimony of spiritual experience, and the ministry of sacred song, receive ye our inheritance among them that are sanctified.

All: We glory in the grace given unto us in this goodly heritage.



Chairman of General Council of Local Union Churches:

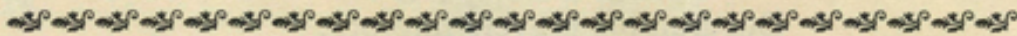
ACCORDING to the grace given unto our fathers, as witnesses to the Apostolic Gospel and standardbearers of the Church commissioned to make disciples of all nations, more especially in the manifestation of the Spirit in the furtherance of community-life within the kingdom of God, and of the principle, in things essential unity and in things secondary liberty, receive ye our inheritance among them that are sanctified.

All: We glory in the grace given unto us in this goodly heritage.



IV

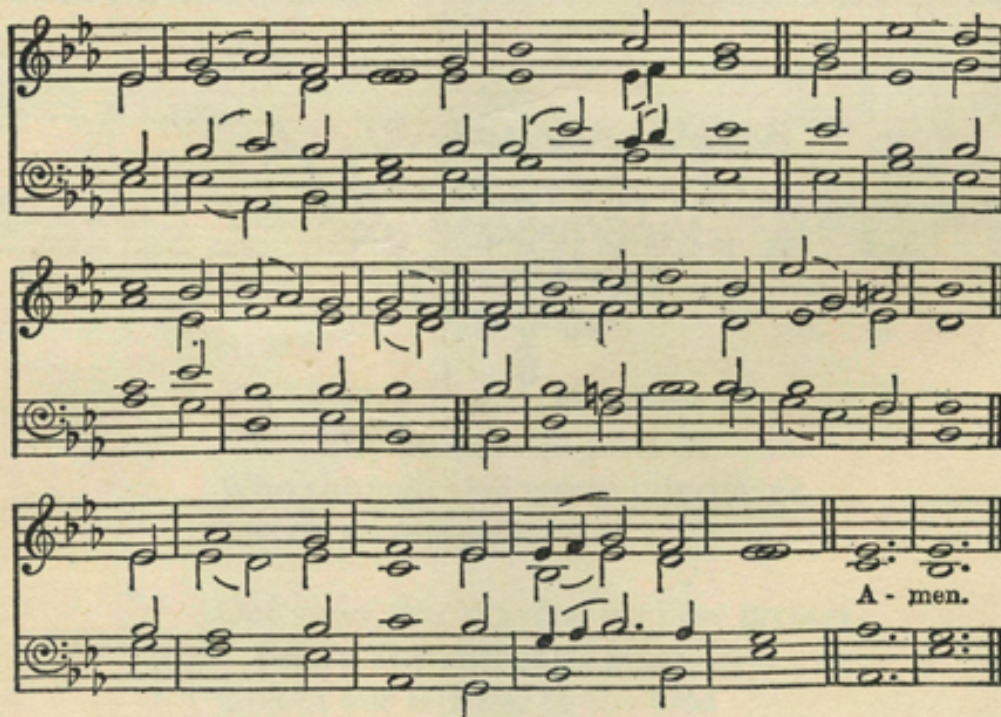
THE HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION SERMON *(by Minister appointed).*

HYMN

1925 Inaugural sermon by Rev. Samuel P. Rose
followed by a bell, short silence, and a second bell.
During the communion hymn the table is set.



TUNE—*Rockingham (Communion)*

WHEN I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. *Amen.*

Isaac Watts.



The Minister presiding shall say:

BELOVED in the Lord,

As we celebrate the Holy Communion of the body and blood of Christ, we are gratefully to remember that our Lord instituted this Sacrament to be observed in His Church for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death, to give a visible assurance and seal of all the benefits thereof unto true believers, to be a bond and pledge of their union with Him and with one another as members of His body which is the Church, and to engage them further in the fulfilment of all the duties they owe to Him.

HEAR the words of the institution of this Sacrament as recorded in Holy Scripture (I Cor. xi. 23-5)—

I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread:

And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.



LET US PRAY

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who by the blood of Thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all, and who admittest Thy people into such wonderful communion that they should dwell in Him and He in them: grant unto us, we beseech Thee, the assurance of Thy mercy, and sanctify us by Thy Holy Spirit, that, drawing near unto Thee with a pure heart and undefiled conscience, we may receive Thy gifts with thankfulness and offer unto Thee a sacrifice in righteousness.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

Holy and Merciful God, who didst give Thy dear Son for the life of the world: not as we ought but as we are able, we bless Thee for His incarnation, for His life on earth, for His precious sufferings and death on the Cross, for His resurrection from the dead, and for His glorious ascension to Thy right hand, where He maketh continual intercession for us.

And we most humbly beseech Thee, O Merciful Father, to vouchsafe unto us now Thy gracious presence, and so to sanctify with Thy Word and Spirit these Thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before Thee, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body of Christ and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of the blood of Christ.

And we beseech Thee to receive this memorial of the blessed sacrifice of Thy Son which He has commanded us to make until He come; in union with whom we offer unto Thee our souls and our bodies; entreating Thee to grant unto us and unto all Thy people, through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the remission of our sins and all other benefits of His passion. *Amen.*

The Minister shall then take the bread and, breaking it in view of the people, say:—

Our Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread: and, when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.

Here the Minister distributes the bread to the Elders, Stewards or Deacons, who distribute it among the communicants, all partaking in the order appointed.

Then the Minister, taking the cup in his hand, shall say:—

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

So saying, the Minister shall give the cup to be received in like manner.

When all have partaken and the Elders, Stewards or Deacons have resumed their places, the Minister shall say:—

As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.

Come Holy Ghost

Come Holy Ghost. Come God and Lord.
with all your grace - on us outpoured.
Come Holy Light. Come guide divine.
Now cause the Word of Life to shine.

Come Holy Fire and Comfort true.
Grant us the will your work to do.
(Veni Sancte Spiritus)

Lord, by your power prepare our hearts.
Where we are weak, Lord strength impart.
That bravely here we may afford
our life and death to you our Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: Martin Luther. Adaptation / Music – Paula Best and Tara Ward (Church of the Beloveds, Tacoma)
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41 Holy Spirit, come to us Veni Sancte Spiritus

$\text{♩} = 56$ *pp*^A Bm⁷/A

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 6/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 56. The piece begins with a piano (pp) dynamic and a first ending bracket labeled 'A'. The lyrics are: 'Veni sancte Spiritus. Holy Spirit, come to us.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, with a Bm7/A chord indicated above the staff.

Ve - ni san - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

pp

Spirit of the Living God

1 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.
 2 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all;

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.
 make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
 hum - ble, car - ing, self - less, shar - ing.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.
 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love!

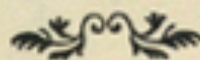
Words: v. 1, Daniel Iverson 1926, v. 2, Michael Baughen 1982

Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987

Words (v. 1) and music copyright © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music. Words (v. 2) copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

LIVING GOD

7 5 7 5 8 7 5



BENEDICTION:

NOW the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*



BLESSED PENTECOST!

Please do join us for cake, coffee and a LIVE viewing of the national livestream
NOW - 2:30pm across the hall in the Doreene McLeod Room
– exit past the left of the chancel / stage and it'll be straight ahead.

There is an offering plate at the back of the church – all proceeds will go to an upcoming Environment/ Art project that Fairfield United is working on with an onsite Artist-in-Residence.

If you would like to donate to any of the individual communities please see Rev. Beth from Fairfield,
or Rev. Rob from AbbeyChurch, respectively.



We're grateful to come together for this celebration as Fairfield United & the AbbeyChurch. Thanks to all the laypeople, musicians & clergy from these UCC-affiliated communities of faith that make home in the United Commons – which is managed by the United Church Regional Council.

**A special thanks to our tech Isabel and our guest organist Robert Jan Dukarm
<https://robertjandukarm.com/>**

As shared United Church of Canada and Anglican Church of Canada community-of-faith, the AbbeyChurch welcomes all folk to continue the celebration at the priestly ordination of our poet-in-residence the Rev. Reba Yeo (they/them) this afternoon at 4pm at Christ Church Cathedral.

This liturgy is drawn from the original June 10, 1925 Mutual Street liturgy and sermon from the Rev. Samuel P. Rose with a few additions:

Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty has been added. This hymn was the opening song at many united churches for over half a century.

Instead of the original Te Duem we have done a more modern version "Holy God We Praise Your Name" from Voices United

Several pages of long prayers have been deleted!

We have added the popular Doxology (inclusivised) verse to "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

We've added "Come Holy Ghost", "Spirit of the Living God" and Taizé's "Veni Sancte Spiritus" as Pentecost communion hymns.

